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TITLE: One-time logon means and methods for
distributed

                           computing systems.

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INVENTOR-INFORMATION:
NAME   COUNTRY
KUNG, KENNETH C   US

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:
NAME   COUNTRY
HUGHES AIRCRAFT CO   US

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ABSTRACT:

   CHG DATE=19990617 STATUS=O> Apparatus and methods of
authenticating users in
a distributed networked computing system (10). The system
(10) may comprise a
central server (12) embodiment that includes a **file (19)
wherein IDs and
encrypted** passwords (30) are stored, or a distributed
system embodiment where
IDs and **encrypted passwords (30) are stored in files** (19)
at each respective

computer in the system (10). A multiple **logon** procedure (16) and secure
transport layer protocol are **used with a user's communication** software and
network **communication** software. When a **user** desires to use a particular
computer (13), **logon** requests are processed by the multiple **logon procedure (16) and it accesses the stored file** (19) that contains the **user's** ID and
encrypted password, decrypts the password (30), **accesses** the remote computer
(13), and **logs the user** onto that computer (13). In the central server system
all IDs and **encrypted** passwords (30) are stored on a single computer (the
server (12)) that controls access to the entire distributed system (10). Once
access is granted to a particular user, nonencrypted passwords (30) are
transmitted to the remote computers (13), since the server (12) controls the
entire system. In the distributed version, password **files** (19) are stored in
all networked computers (13), and once a **user logs** on to a computer (11), if
the **user wishes to use services at a second computer (13), the authentication**
information is forwarded to the second computer (13) using the secure transport
layer protocol to protect its integrity, and after receiving the authentication
information, it is compared with authentication **information** for the same **user**
stored in the second computer (13). If the authentication **information** matches,
the **user is logged onto the second** computer (13). <IMAGE>